

Venture VOICE

Stay Safe

Ormiston
venture academy



Edition 39: Winter 2024



Achieve
Aspire
Innovate
Create



Union of
Venture Students

Head Boy & Girl

UVS announces new 2023/2024 leaders

Graduation 2023/24

Celebrating Year 11 Students

Christmas Fayre

All the fun of the Festive Fair

London Theatre

Visting the West-End... Showtime!

Sports Round-Up

From Year 7 to Year 11 Sports

**and so
much more!**



TRAIN TO TEACH



Contact email address –
oaksnorfolk@ormistonventureacademy.co.uk

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Norfolk

The OAKS is an Ofsted Outstanding provider of Initial Teacher Training, working with seven hubs spread geographically across the UK.

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Keep up-to-date and follow us @OrmistonVenture from twitter.com

Welcome Back

As we welcome 2024 and a new year ahead we reflected on how we are going to continue to make Venture a better place for our community.



For me it is simple. Amazing people create amazing communities that do amazing things. We have challenged everyone at Venture to step into this year thinking how they can try a little harder, work a bit more, contribute something extra and grow throughout the year ahead.

Aristotle's idea that "Good character helps the Soul Flourish" is central to our next steps as a community.

The Venture Virtues and the way in which these are pillars to how we live our lives is key in working together to ensure everyone is successful.

Our virtues of ambition, kindness, neighbourliness, resilience, respect, responsibility and teamwork can be seen in all areas of our academy.

They might mean slightly different things to each of us but at the heart of it, we all see these as more than words. They are true drivers in how we act as a community and it is

this that makes this community something truly special.

This year as a community we continue to embrace these and ensure that not just in the academy but our wider community feels the positivity and warmth that living these virtues brings.

Regards

Simon Gilbert-Barnham
- Principal

Joe Parrott, Vice Chair of Governors.

As I write this, the news is filled with politicians dissecting the events of the COVID pandemic (remember that?); this got me thinking about how the Venture community has performed over the past few years as things returned to 'normal'.

Whether you were at Venture or primary school during the pandemic – you adapted, became more resilient and probably realised that school is about much more than equations and Shakespeare soliloquies (although there's definitely a place for those too!).

Thinking back to that time of online learning, bubbles and Zoom calls; who wasn't longing for the rush of a sports club, the buzz of a school trip, a shared joke in the café or the sight of Mr GB's latest World Book Day costume?

As well as our role in monitoring the academic achievements at Venture; governors also spend time understanding and talking to staff and students about the wider opportunities which support students' development and interests. We're genuinely thrilled that Venture offer such a rich collection of activities and experiences – a big thanks to the dedication of Venture staff who often give up their time to do this.



I'd encourage you to get involved in extended learning, enrichment, guilds and any other opportunities which come your way (you've got two years to make up for after all). In a few years' time when you're applying for a job or university place, your ability to talk about the Venture netball team or the Quidditch Guild might just make you the more interesting candidate – and, who knows, you might enjoy yourself too.

On behalf of all the governors, I hope you have a happy, exciting and successful 2024 and we look forward to seeing what the future holds for you.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE



Union of
Venture Students

The Union of Venture Students organised a spectacular Christmas Fayre.

Stalls included festive hot chocolates, popcorn, decorative jewellery and reindeer poo (don't ask!!)

Dancers and the choir provided entertainment alongside the Venture Vibe radio station belting out Christmas favourites!

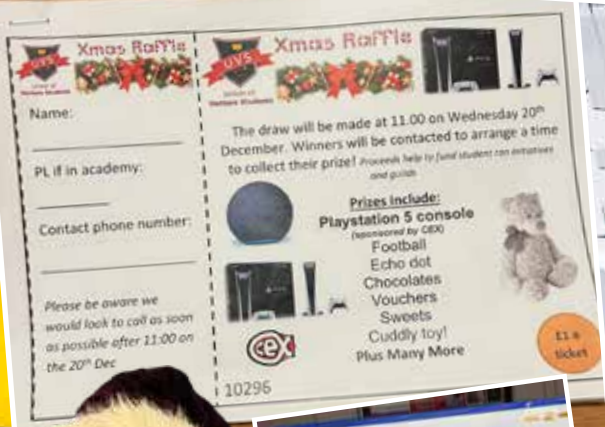
Santa was accompanied by his reindeer and elves to deliver a super event for the student and staff community.

The raffle made over £1,000 for guild and enrichment activities with the top prize of a PlayStation 5 kindly donated once again by CEX in Great Yarmouth.

This was won by Ashton. Other prizes of vouchers, an Echo dot and chocolates were also handed out by the eager elves!



COOKIES
50P A BAG



Merry Little Christmas Party

On Monday 18th December 2023, over two hundred students celebrated the festive season at the third annual 'Merry Little Christmas Party'.

Students were rewarded with an invitation for following the Venture Way this term - having good attendance and demonstrating the venture virtues in their learning throughout the last term.

Staff and students celebrated by participating in an array of fun filled activities, whilst relaxing with a hot chocolate topped with whipped cream and marshmallows, and a delicious buffet.

Congratulations all who were involved – your commitment to the Venture Way is fantastic.

Mr McNally was so impressed with the efforts of the UVS students he commented that

"The elves did Santa proud and worked as a team to prepare and co-ordinate a wonderful event for the students. We are extremely grateful for CEX for their kind donations again this year - really making Christmas special."

71st Festival of Carols

This was the 71st Festival, which for many residents of the area marks the start of Christmas.

The concerts took place at the Drill Hall in Great Yarmouth on Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th December 2023

Planning for the festival had started back in July with rehearsals taking place during the autumn term.

Students from many local primary schools, as well as Caister Academy and Lyn Grove Academy, joined together to sing Christmas carols and songs.

The GYSMA is a local charity, which offers students the opportunity to perform in ensembles and choirs. They hold many concerts throughout the year.

We had 20 students taking part from all different Years and Venture students performed in front of two capacity audiences.



Paige (Year 11) auditioned for a solo part during 'Once in Royal Davids City' and performed this on Thursday night. We are very proud of all the students that took part as they dedicate their own time to rehearsals and the performances.



Food Bank Generosity

Christmas is always a time to celebrate, but students at Venture are aware it is also a time when we need to look out for the most vulnerable members of our community.



This is why every December we hold a Christmas jumper day, where students are asked to donate an item of food to the local food bank, rather than pay the usual £1 fee that is distributed to charity. Around 1000 items were donated again, showing the generosity of Venture students and their families. Reverend Matthew Price from the St. Mary Magdalen church received the donations for the local foodbank on the final Monday of term.

Reverend Matthew said, "The foodbank has been seeing increasing demand in recent months, so we are so grateful to Venture."

Mr Doggett, commented,

"Christmas is a wonderful time of year, but we are all aware that people are struggling and food banks are seeing more and more demand; students were all shown a video on the Cost of Living Crisis, which showed many families working fulltime, yet still needing to access foodbanks from time to time. Our students have once again responded so positively to the annual appeal and we are pleased we can make a difference to the local community, in which Venture and the St Mary Magdalen church are the very hub of."



Principal Breakfast

Shoebox Appeal

Students had already been thinking about this for several weeks.

Following the launch of this year's Shoebox Appeal in collectives, Personalised learning groups and their tutors had been busily packing items ready to provide some Christmas cheer for less fortunate young people in Eastern Europe, Africa and as far away as Haiti.

The Samaritans 'Operation Christmas Child' is where shoe boxes full of gifts are created and then delivered to countries with children living in poverty as a Christmas present. These will often be the only gifts they will receive. A shoebox gift provides a connection

between different cultures, backgrounds and nationalities. It bridges the gap between someone who has something to give, and someone who can't wait to receive it.

Over one million shoeboxes sent out from the UK and Ireland last year, 5,000 UK volunteers help to prepare the shoeboxes for delivery and fourteen different countries will receive these valued gifts in 2023.

Exactly 41 shoeboxes were packed jointly by the four colleges and were delivered to the local drop off point in Blofield. Students were delighted to be involved in something so interesting that will bring so much joy to so many young people in parts of the world they may never visit.

Mr Doggett, stated, "It is great to see so many students and staff involved in this each year. We build on it annually and students are keen to help those less fortunate than themselves. Parents have also been very helpful again, purchasing gifts and donating items to go into the shoeboxes. We beat last year's total number of boxes, so the academy is delighted."

Sara- *"My PL Tutor showed us all a video on about the shoebox appeal and it is amazing that we can help others so far away, so easily."*

Jack- *"It was fantastic to make up the boxes with lots of lovely gifts to children who will really appreciate it."*



UVS Baraza



Just before the Christmas break, Venture's Union of Venture Students (UVS) held its second Baraza of the academic year.

The Baraza, named after an East African tradition, where villagers would hold a regular public meeting asking for change, has been responsible for genuine shifts from the students in our academy community.

Director of Personal Development and lead staff member of the UVS Spencer Doggett commented,

"It is like Venture's own parliament, offering opportunities for the PL Captains across the academy to voice their ideas and even vote upon suggestions other members make; just like a national parliament does." 82 students were in attendance; our largest gathering of the UVS to date.

The December event offered the opportunity to say goodbye to the outgoing UVS members from Year 11 and introduce the new team, who were announced just the day before. Order of business included;

The progress made since the last Baraza, including the local charities students voted to support during the last non-uniform day.



How we are going to celebrate the national food days selected last Baraza (Inc. Chinese New Year and Australia Day)

Future food days they want to celebrate. The top voted days were 'African food celebration' and marking the Dementia 'Time for a Cuppa' week in March.

Excitingly, a taste testing session, where the UVS were given the chance to sample the new menu items that they voted for themselves in October. Dishes included a new 5 bean chilli and an oatie crumble and custard. Amazing feedback all round!

Ideas for future Friday Talks and College Clash events. These included asking a vet, a builder. Mechanic and a chef to give a talk at Venture.

Finally, telling the students about the Active Transport Ambassadors initiative, where UVS members could receive a £5000 grant to make travelling to the academy more sustainable and eco-friendly.

Venture is exceptionally proud of our student union; the Union of Venture Students (UVS).

Since its conception, it has been responsible for genuine change from the students themselves and provided opportunities for real leadership from Year 7 upwards.

Year 10 students have the opportunity to apply for the Senior UVS positions of Head Boy, Head Girl, Deputy Head Boy and Girl and two Head Prefect positions. These are the pinnacle of a successful group of student leaders, working hard as a team to make their academy even better.

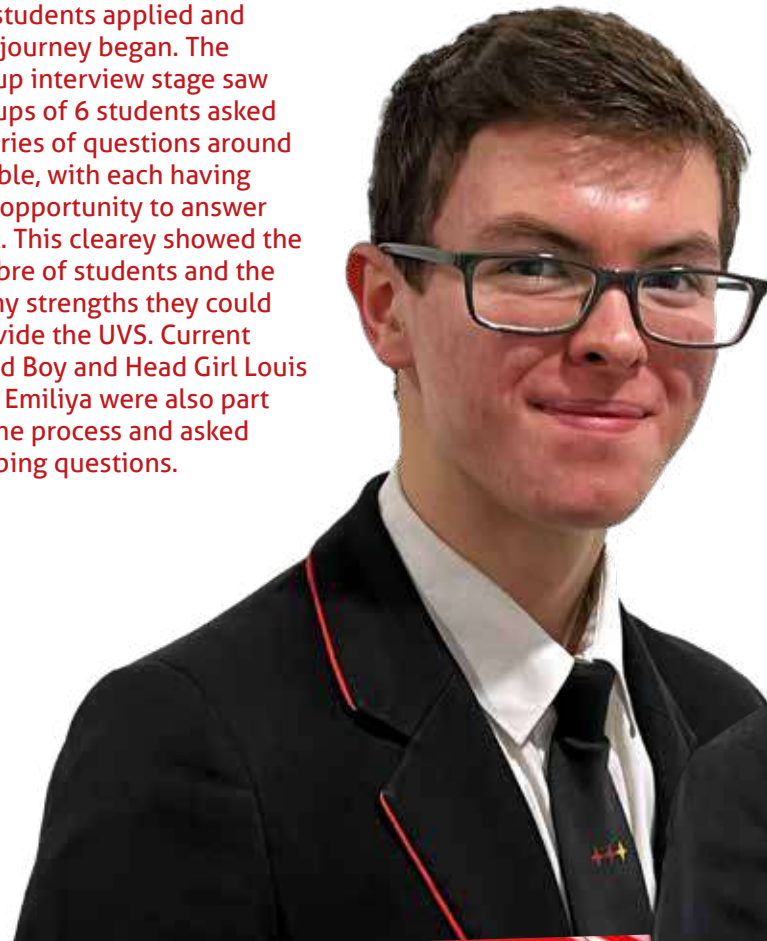
The process began with a collective to all students in October that outlined the timeline. This also provides students of all ages that chance to ask questions and think about their own future applications.

24 students applied and the journey began. The group interview stage saw groups of 6 students asked a series of questions around a table, with each having the opportunity to answer first. This clearly showed the calibre of students and the many strengths they could provide the UVS. Current Head Boy and Head Girl Louis and Emiliya were also part of the process and asked probing questions.

Meet your



Union of Venture Students for 2023/24



Head Boy: Dylan



Head Girl: Ashnetha

Ten students were selected for the final interviews; a tough decision in itself. Mr Gilbert-Barnham and Mr Doggett held the more in-depth discussion in person aided by Chair of Governors Lesley King via video

link. Students were asked why they applied, questions specific to their application and what they hoped their legacy might be.



ROLE	STUDENTS NAME
Head Boy	Dylan
Head Girl	Ashnetha
Deputy Head Boy	Maddox
Deputy Head Girl	Poppy
Senior Prefect	Megan
Senior Prefect	Daisy
Guilds & Societies	Lillie, Ella & Uche

ROLE	STUDENTS NAME
Learning Partners	Kirsten & Ilyssa
Media	Anna-Lee, Elisha, Aeryn & Ella
Student Support	Gracie, Sophia and Elisa
Community & Culture	Sienna, Connie & Thomas
College Clash	Aaliyah, Thomas, Brandon & Jaime

"It is great to see so many Year 10 students having the confidence to apply for the senior positions in the UVS. So many spoke about their determination to give back to the academy and drive change. It was an incredibly tough decision, as there were so many positive interviews and great ideas, so congratulations to everyone who applied, who will now make up our UVS Senior Team for 2024."

GRADUATION

2023-2024

Ormiston Venture Academy Welcomes Back Class of 2023 for Graduation Ceremony.

Venture proudly welcomed back the Class of 2023 for the academy's annual Graduation Ceremony. This event invite families, students and staff to celebrate the excellent GCSE achievements of a year group in style.

Students wearing red gowns and mortar boards received diplomas to commemorate their time at Venture, and to recognise the passing of one phase of their education to another.

Ormiston Venture Academy operates an alumni programme which enables students to share successes and continue to be positive role models within the academy. Any former student who wants support is urged to get in touch, fitting the motto "once a Venture student, always a Venture student".

Principal Simon Gilbert-Barnham said:

"It was a real pleasure to see our Class of 2023 formally graduate as Venture Alumni. We are so proud of them and the exciting futures they are embarking on – they've all grown into such exceptional young adults."

Dave Richards, Vice Principal of Ormiston Venture Academy, said:

"It is always lovely to welcome back our previous year group for their Graduation Ceremony as a Ormiston Venture Academy tradition. The best bit of the evening is to hear about what they have gone on to study, how much they are enjoying the next phase of their education and all the success they are already achieving and aiming for."

Enrico Armando who spoke on behalf of the class of 2023 thanked students, staff and finally parents in his address saying :

"Tonight is about appreciating all the memories we created and all the hard work we have put in together as a year group. So, to my year group, thank you for helping me make these Venture memories unforgettable and full of joy and I hope you guys will keep bringing as much joy to other people as you brought me. I would like to give a special thank you to all the teachers that have been with us throughout our journey, especially during the years of the pandemic that were tough for everyone. I also need to thank parents here present for putting up with us daily when teachers only had to deal with us during weekdays!"

**BBC****Children
in Need**

A Splash of Yellow and Fun for a Worthy Cause

Friday, 17th November marked a day of vibrant yellow and infectious enthusiasm at Ormiston Venture Academy the academy rallied together for the annual Children In Need event. This year, the academy embraced the "Wear Something Yellow" theme, transforming its corridors into a sea of cheerful yellow hues.

Students eagerly participated in the spirit of the day, donning Pudsey ears, dressing up as bananas, and even opting for the comfort of pyjamas.

The result? A visually stunning spectacle that not only added a burst of colour to the academy environment but also showcased the students' creativity and commitment to making a difference.

One of the highlights of the day was the highly anticipated Staff vs. Students netball match. The friendly competition had both sides giving their all, with the staff team managing to secure a hard-fought victory with a final score of 11-7. The atmosphere was electric, filled with cheers and laughter as everyone got involved, showing that a bit of healthy competition can go a long way in supporting a good cause.

Mr. Doggett, the head of the Union of Venture Students expressed his delight at the success of the event, noting that it was a great occasion that brought the entire school community together. He was particularly pleased that the collective effort raised a substantial amount of money for various student-chosen charities, emphasizing the importance of supporting causes that resonate with the student body.

Children In Need serves as a poignant reminder that even the smallest gestures can make a significant impact. The day at Venture not only provided an opportunity for students and staff to have fun and showcase their creative flair but also demonstrated the power of a united community coming together for a common goal.

As the academy community choose to support various charities, not only Children In Need, but also 2 local charities Leo's for Ukraine and East Anglian Children's Hospice (EACH), making a positive difference in the lives of those who need it most.



A Day of Artistic Exploration: Year 10 Students Visit London's Renowned Galleries

In an inspiring journey through history and creativity, Year 10 art students embarked on a captivating excursion to the heart of London's artistic treasures.

Their day began with a visit to the prestigious National Portrait Gallery and the iconic National Gallery, followed by a scenic route past Buckingham Palace, the Houses of Parliament, and along the picturesque River Thames.

The primary objective of this enriching trip was to immerse students in the masterpieces of renowned artists like Van Gogh, Lucian Freud, Pablo Picasso, Turner, Matisse, Monet and Tracey Emin.

The students were not only exposed to the brilliance of these artists but also had the opportunity to delve into the depths of history and culture through their creations. The range of artworks on display, spanning from the Tudors to the Renaissance, provided a comprehensive overview of art evolution over centuries.

Tom in year 10, shared his experience, expressing his fascination with the historical paintings of the royal family. "I really enjoyed our trip to London. I loved looking at the paintings of the royal family from hundreds of years ago.

It gave me real insight into our history through paintings. My favourite piece was a huge painting of the racehorse Whistlejacket, painted by George Stubbs in 1762." Tom's sentiments captured the essence of the trip, highlighting the ability of art to bridge the gap between the past and the present.



Mrs. Mallory, the dedicated teacher of art, emphasized the significance of the excursion.

"We were extremely fortunate to visit the National Gallery and The National Portrait Gallery to view some important pieces of art. The students were so impressed to see original works by Pablo Picasso and Vincent Van Gogh. They really enjoyed the more contemporary works in the National Portrait Gallery and were really inspired by the exhibition Women in Portraiture."

This display not only celebrated the talent of modern artists but also served as a testament to the diverse narratives that art can convey. Through this exhibition, students were able to witness the evolution of portraiture, gaining insights into the changing perceptions of identity and gender over time.

Overall, the day was a remarkable journey for the Year 10 art students, filled with awe-inspiring moments and valuable lessons.

Their visit to London's renowned galleries not only expanded their artistic horizons but also deepened their understanding of history, culture, and the power of creative expression.

As they returned to their classrooms, they carried with them a newfound appreciation for the rich tapestry of human creativity, ready to infuse their own artworks with the wisdom gained from this unforgettable experience.





Computer Science Visit

The Computer Science Department at Ormiston Venture Academy took 40 Year 10 and 5 year 9 students to The Centre of Computing History in Cambridge.

Students were divided into three groups to participate in 4 different activities throughout the day. One session included a lesson on the world's largest processor. This allowed students to consolidate their knowledge and understanding of the FDE cycle, which has just been covered in the curriculum.

This session was particularly interesting, as it allowed our students to see the Fetch Decode Execute cycle in action. It was created By James Newman between 2014-2016 and holds the Guinness World Record for the largest processor. "Computers are quite opaque, looking at them it's impossible to see how they work.

What I would like to do is get inside and see what's going on. Trouble is we can't shrink down small enough to walk inside a silicon chip. But we can go the other way; we can build the thing big enough that we can walk inside it.

Not only that we can also put LEDs on everything so we can see the data moving and the logic happening. It's going to be great" - James Newman.

They were also introduced to early memory and shown how technology has reduced in size and cost but increased in capabilities.

Another session included a programming lesson, controlling external objects. This was called Pi Power and took place in the 80's style classroom. This was an opportunity for students to show off their programming skills to make a remote-controlled buggy to be programmed and move based on inputs from the code.

The third guided session was a tour around the amazing artefacts the museum as curated. This allowed the students to add some vital contextual information to the knowledge they have gained in the classroom. Specifically seeing how computers have developed over time.

Students were shocked by how large old machines and technology were and I believe this has given them a new appreciation for the devices we use every day.



Students also had the opportunity to explore the games zone, where they were able to play a timeline of game evolution, playing original versions of favourites such as Tetris, Pacman, Sonic and Street Fighter.

Head of Computer Science and Trip leader, Lewis Riches said "The Visit to The Centre of Computing History embeds itself perfectly into our curriculum adding vital contextual information to support students existing knowledge.

It is a place which we have enjoyed visiting in the past and plan to continue in the future for other groups of students. All students had a fantastic time and thoroughly enjoyed the experience! "

Students were amazing on the day and were enthusiastic in the sessions, asking questions and showing genuine interest into the subject of computing. This was really lovely to see.

"They day has been really fun, I found the Mega processor really interesting and was probably my favourite part of the day." -Ashnetha

"The Centre of Computing History all around was a really nice place to visit to understand how computers work and their history. I enjoyed seeing how they have evolved over time." - Diogo

Students taught how to save lives

As part of our CASH Curriculum (Community, Ambition, Spirituality and Health), students study a unit on Basic First Aid.



This includes lessons on how to help someone having an asthma attack, how to aid someone who has an allergic reaction and what to do if someone has a head injury. However, the National Curriculum also includes the need to train students in CPR and the use of a defibrillator for emergency situations.

Ormiston Venture is very proud to have trained approximately

600 students since 2021 and is very grateful to the British Red Cross who have once again given their valuable time to train the latest batch of budding First Aiders in Year 8. The Red Cross Community Education outreach programme has provided superb training sessions for all students in Year 8, but in 2021 they kindly agreed to also train Year 9 students, who had their training postponed due to the Covid-19 national lockdown.

This October, trainer Nigel and his team of 'Little Annie' resuscitation dolls delivered workshops over three days to 180 students. This included how to place someone in the recovery position, what to do in an emergency, when and how to give chest compressions and how to use a defibrillator to restart a heart. As it was national 'Restart a Heart' week in the UK on 16th October, so it was the perfect time.

Year 8 Max said,

"It is really useful to know the basic First Aid facts, because it could help save a life one day,"

Kobi said,

"It helped me to know how to do chest compressions properly."

Tamish said,

"CPR is so valuable, because it gives you the knowledge to save a life and prevents someone not knowing what to do in an emergency."



Mr Doggett, Director of Personal Development commented,

"It is great to see the Year 8 students having this training. It was awful to hear that over 6000 people every year in the UK lose their lives because they choke by simply not being placed in the recovery position. This 60 minute training provides skills for life and literally could save a life of a loved one or even a stranger."

The yellow defibrillator machines can look daunting, but when you hear the machine talking to you and telling you what to do at each step, it takes the fear away and makes students more confident."





Romeo & Juliet

KS4 theatre workshop

Joanna Brown (right) visited Venture on behalf of 'West End in Schools' to conduct a theatrical workshop that was centred around Romeo and Juliet.

This gave the students the opportunity to revisit the text and engage with it in a completely different and unique way. Joanna is an actor who has been performing for almost a decade; she is currently performing in 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'; and is very familiar with all things Shakespeare.



150 students from Year 10 and Year 11 took part in a workshop that covered the following:

- Exploring the use of punctuation through movement, discovering how punctuation affects the rhythm, delivery and meaning of the lines.
- Engaging with the impact words of an extract, considering which parts of a line motivate a character to act in the way they do.
- Working together, using rehearsal techniques to identify key words and their impact on character and plot development.
- Examining the dynamics between multiple characters within a scene. Students explored staging techniques that can express status, relationships and dramatic tension.

Miss Sweeney, Head of English commented,

"It was so exciting to see the students engaging with Shakespeare in such a dynamic, vibrant way. Students were given the chance to really think about the staging and dramatic production of the play."

Poppy, Year 10 student said

"It was amazing to have such an exciting opportunity to explore Romeo and Juliet from a different perspective – we got to move about and enjoy trialling out parts of the performance!"

Diary Dates

February 2024

Thursday 1st February -
Year 7 & 8 Parents Evening 3pm - 8pm

Tuesday 13th February
to Thursday 15th February -
Academy Production of:

Friday 16th February -
Students break for half term at 2.55pm

Monday 19th February - Friday 23rd February
Half Term Break

Monday 26th February -
Students return to the academy 8.25am

What's coming up at Venture Academy...

March 2024

Thursday 7th March - World Book Day

Thursday 14th March - Year 9 & 10 Parents Evening - 3pm - 8pm

Wednesday 27th March - Year 11 Preparing for Exams Evening -
3pm - 8pm

Thursday 28th March - Students break for Easter half term
at 2.55pm



Exploring Textile Structures: A Day at the Time and Tide Museum

A recent excursion to the Time and Tide Museum in Great Yarmouth proved to be an enriching and inspiring experience for Year 10 and Year 11 GCSE Textiles students.

The purpose of this textile-focused trip was to gather primary research, including photographs and sketches, for their 'Structures' themed coursework project. This educational adventure not only fulfilled its academic objectives but also left an indelible mark on the students' creative minds.

The main attraction of our visit was the 'Bare Bones' exhibition, a showcase that perfectly aligned with our coursework theme. However, we couldn't resist the opportunity to explore the entire museum, which housed a treasure trove of maritime history and local heritage. Miss Palmer, the Teacher of Textiles who organised the trip, was effusive in her praise of the museum, stating, "The Time and Tide Museum is a lovely place to visit, and the Bare Bones exhibition was fascinating." Her enthusiasm was certainly echoed by every student on the trip, as they unanimously expressed their enjoyment.

For many of us, this trip marked our first visit to the Time and Tide Museum, and it did not disappoint. The museum's unique location in a former herring curing works and smokehouse, right on the edge of the historic quayside, provided an immersive setting for our exploration.

The highlight of our visit was undoubtedly the 'Bare Bones' exhibition, which delved deep into the intricate structures of textiles. From the skeletal remains of textile machinery to intricate patterns woven into fabrics, the exhibition unveiled the hidden beauty and complexity within textiles. Students were captivated by the artistic and technical intricacies on display, and many seized the opportunity to take photographs and sketch these incredible textile structures.

Beyond the 'Bare Bones' exhibition, the Time and Tide Museum offered a diverse range of exhibits that deepened our appreciation of the local history and culture. From the atmospheric re-creation of a 1950s fisherman's cottage to the vivid stories of Great Yarmouth's maritime past, there was something to captivate everyone's interest. These supplementary experiences not only broadened our horizons but also inspired fresh perspectives for our coursework projects.

In conclusion, the Textiles trip to the Time and Tide Museum was an huge success. Miss Palmer's words aptly summarised the sentiment of the day:

"The Time and Tide Museum is a lovely place to visit, and the Bare Bones exhibition was fascinating."

This experience not only expanded our knowledge of textile structures but also ignited a passion for creativity and exploration that will undoubtedly serve our students well as they continue their educational journey in the world of textiles.

It was a day of learning, inspiration, and discovery, and one that will be fondly remembered by all who participated.



Scholarship Success for Venture Students

Every year one Venture Student achieves a fully funded boarding scholarship to Gresham's school in Holt, and for 2023-24 the selection process for that Scholarship is underway and will be decided by Easter.

It is important though that our students are aware of other scholarship opportunities available to them if this is something that is of interest to them and we have made sure this is something that is shared with them throughout year 10 and 11.

This year we are really pleased to say that a number of students have applied for these opportunities at schools across the region, and are incredibly proud of two of those students who have gained full scholarships/bursaries to prestigious schools where they will take up their post 16 studies.

Emiliya is this year's winner of the Ormiston Academy Trust (OAT) scholarship, which will enable her to take up a place at Oundle School, an independent boarding school in Oundle, following an ongoing partnership between the two well-respected education providers.

The OAT scholarship is open to any students in Year 11 at an OAT academy and is available thanks to the generosity of Oundle School.

Emiliya went through a series of tough selection interviews before becoming one of a very small number of shortlisted Ormiston students, drawn from across the country, to attend an interview and selection weekend at Oundle School.

Getting to this final stage is an achievement to be proud of in its own right, however, Emiliya was then offered a fully funded boarding place at the school and has accepted the place as an academic scholar to study History, Maths, Economics and Government and Politics with the dream of going into corporate law.

Emiliya said *"In some ways it hasn't really sunk in yet that out of all the students across Ormiston Academies Trust in the country that I was able to be successful in gaining the scholarship place. I am extremely proud but also extremely grateful to Ormiston Academies Trust and Oundle for providing this opportunity which I intend to take full advantage of in further developing as a person and in helping me achieve my dreams."*

Emiliya wasn't the only Venture student to make the final of the OAT Oundle Scholarship, Anneka also made the final interview and selection panel and was already also looking into other options for her study next year that would help her achieve her dream of becoming



a vet and studying at the Royal Veterinary College. Anneka applied for a place at Norwich School and after an interview and selection day was offered a place to study Chemistry, Biology and History Next year with the support of a full bursary.

Anneka said *"I am incredibly proud of myself for getting a place at Norwich School. When I received the letter, it was quite emotional, and I couldn't wait to share the news with family and friends. It was lovely to have the validation that they believe in me and what I am capable of and can't wait to continue my studies at Norwich School next year. It has made all the hard work that I have had to put in through some difficulty circumstances really worth it!"*

All the staff at Ormiston Venture academy are incredibly proud of both Emiliya and Anneka for these wonderful achievements.

Principal Simon Gilbert-Barnham said,

"Ambition for all is a key part of what makes Venture the place it is. We are extremely proud of both Anneke and Emiliya in not just their successful scholarships but also in the exceptional way they have gone through the entire process. We look forward to hearing about their future success as Venture Alumni."





Attempt

Every Year, Ormiston Venture Academy attempts to break a Guinness World Record. Venture is already official World Record holder for the highest number of High-Fives with a mascot (Vinny the Venture Raptor) in three minutes and followed this up with the greatest number of paper aeroplanes in the air at the same time a year later.

Following the end of Covid restrictions, in 2022 we unofficially broke the World Record for the number of times a balloon could be bounced on a cotton bud in just 30 seconds and in September 2023 set an unofficial cricket World Record by holding the largest ever cricket lesson the world had ever seen; 900 students broke the previous one set in May 2022 at Edgbaston Cricket Ground, that had 645 students taking part in a series of activities and training drills.

With the January weather far less predictable and the temperature much cooler, an indoor record was sought for the Team Building session on our January Student Training day. That was when Mr. Doggett stumbled across a video of a school in Belgium simultaneously playing paper cups to a beat.

Their performance was based on a scene from the movie Pitch Perfect and the challenge was on!

Students watched the Belgian school at work, before also being shown the clip from the movie. They then had a tutorial of how to play to the beat (shown several times) and finally, the entire academy had our very own simultaneous performance across 40 classrooms.

Michael (Year 7) said, **"I really enjoyed it. We didn't always stay in time to the beat for the full 60 seconds, but it was fun."**

Director of Personal Development, Spencer Doggett commented, **"It is always good to see our students working as one big team and having fun at the same time. Attempting to beat such a record takes co-ordination and planning, but the students were game and tried their best. We involved just under 900 students today, so smashed the official World Record that stands at 349."**



Achieve Jericho

Jericho is very respectful and hard-working young man.

Outside of the Academy he is an exceptional swimmer. He has been swimming for the last 10 years. He now swims for Norwich Swans, and he has done so for the last 7 years.

He has won many medals varying from County and Regional titles and proudly achieving many Regional best times.



Principal AWARD - Jericho

Jericho is very respectful and hard-working young man. He is reliable and a caring young man. He is working at a high standard in lessons and conducts himself in a very good manner around the academy.

Create

Sienna

She has had a keen passion for art, and painting in particular, since she was 7 years old but has really flourished since joining Venture. She does Art and Photography GCSEs which shows how creative she is.

Sienna stays for every after-academy art club and is considering an Art A-Level post Venture as part of her Further Education plans.

She is thinking about possible careers in the art industry but also keeping her options open. Sienna says she likes all forms of art but painting with watercolours is her personal favourite at the moment.

We wish her all the best of luck in the future.



Principal AWARD - Sienna.

Sienna is an amazingly talented artist with a phenomenal work rate and attitude to learning.

She produces some exceptional snippets of work demonstrating a really high level of skill and precision. She has a fantastic attitude to all of her studies and has applied to be part of the new Union of Venture Students cohort.



Innovate Harley

Harley won Gold and Silver medal for Kickboxing at UEA for the European championship.

He trains and competes with East Coast Black Belt kickboxing club. As well as having trials for the Leicester Tigers RFU Harley also has future aspirations to be a kickboxing star. Venture PE are extremely proud of all Harley's sporting accolades. He truly is Venture Elite.

Principal AWARD - Harry – Year 7

This student has made an incredible start to his journey at Venture. Academically he is pushing himself to be able to have as many doors open as possible due to his high academic performance achieving consistent 7s, 8s, and 9s. He has represented and attended multiple extra-curricular clubs and fixtures. This student is a pleasure to teach and work with every day, a future member of the Union of Venture Students.



Aspire Cameron

Cameron (below) competed in the WKO British Championship in Birmingham in September, for his first official bout.

He competed in the 40KG weight class for his boxing gym, K9 Legends Gym, and won by a unanimous decision on points.

Principal AWARD April – Year 9

April (right) is a true symbol of community spirit, and a fantastic ambassador for Venture. She tries her hardest in every single lesson, always looking to improve and better herself. She is incredibly kind, and always have a smile on her face. April has also had 100% attendance and is always on time!



Year 10 Apprenticeships

Eve Kiddy from Norfolk County Council came to talk to our year 10 student about Apprenticeships.

Highlighting the huge variety of apprenticeships students can apply for and at the different levels they can look at to see what might suit them.

A number of the students stayed behind at the end of the presentation to discuss specific apprenticeships they were interested in such as Welding, offshore engineering, and those focused around the forces.

Presentations have now been delivered to the majority of students in years 10 and 11, with specific follow up sessions signing students up to the Ask Apprenticeships website and looking for specific apprenticeships like the NHS for example.

IntoUniversity

Students from Ormiston Venture Academy attended a 'Business Focus' workshop hosted by IntoUniversity.

IntoUniversity offers an innovative programme that supports young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to attain their chosen aspirations, including further and higher education, employment and work-based training.

The workshop was located in the prestigious supper room in the Town Hall, overlooking the quay, with its grandeur and elegance providing an

excellent backdrop for the students to let their creative minds run free as they organised their own music festival.

Students worked in teams, allocated roles, including CEO, press officer and finance director as they set about choosing acts, writing press releases and preparing bids to present to Great Yarmouth Borough Council members acting as trustees.

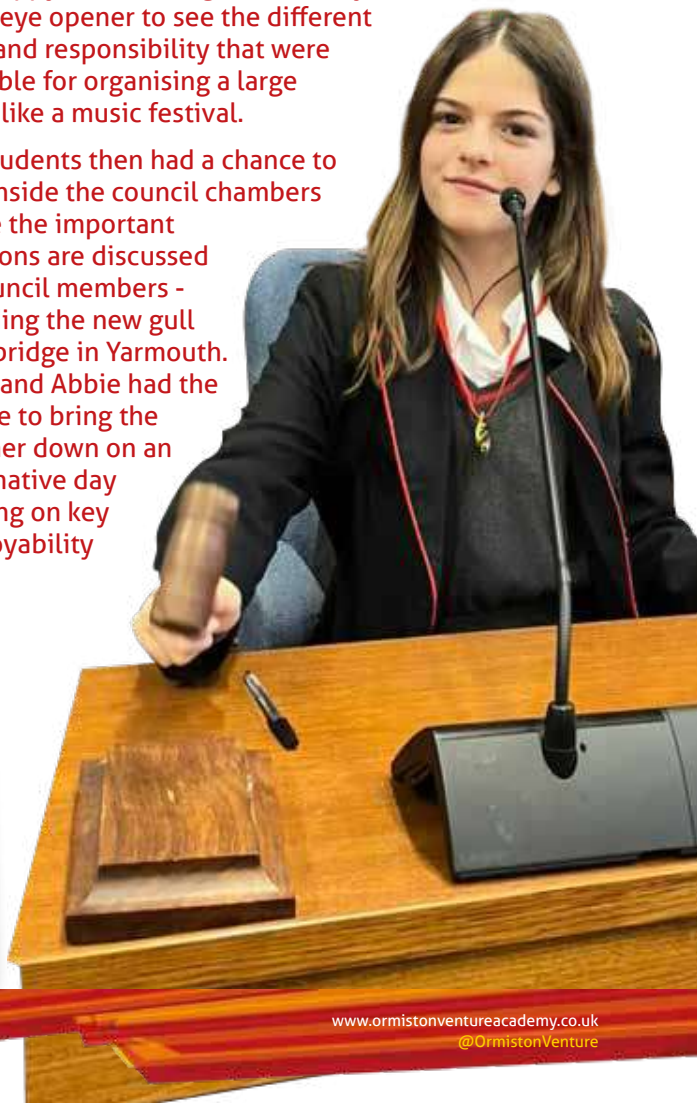


Visit Venture

Students had to market their festival to the adults and justify their choices.

The team including Poppy, Tia, Taylor, Josh, Daisy, Pritisha and Sophie won overall, with winning CEO Poppy commenting that the day was a real eye opener to see the different roles and responsibility that were available for organising a large event like a music festival.

The students then had a chance to look inside the council chambers where the important decisions are discussed by council members - including the new gull wing bridge in Yarmouth. Daisy and Abbie had the chance to bring the hammer down on an informative day working on key employability skills.



Combined Cadet Force Opportunity

The Combined Cadet Force (CCF) at East Norfolk Sixth Form College (EN6th) works in conjunction with Venture and offers students in Year 9 and above a unique opportunity to engage in a structured and challenging programme designed for their personal development.

Adhering to health and safety guidelines, students can join the CCF, starting from Year 9 and continue through Year 11, and even up to Year 13 with East Norfolk Sixth Form.

To join, interested students need to meet with the coordinator at Venture, Mr Sutton who will provide a consent letter to be signed by parents. After attending initial sessions, those committed to continuing will be equipped with uniforms, provided at no cost, with the exception of boots which students are required to supply.

The CCF operates during term time, with sessions held once a week on Thursdays from 15:30 to 17:30 at East Norfolk Sixth Form College. Those wishing to join need to be committed to regular attendance.

The curriculum, formulated by the Ministry of Defence, covers a wide array of skills, including basic drill, navigation, physical exercise, field craft, first aid, and weapons handling. Beyond the regular monthly

meetings, students can participate in various exercises and training camps throughout the year. Ranging from two days to a week, these activities often involve overnight camping and field exercises, offering an additional dimension to the cadet experience.

Participation in these exercises is not compulsory, but highly encouraged, providing cadets with a chance to apply and enhance their skills in real-world scenarios. Additionally, the CCF offers opportunities for cadets

to progress in rank and take on leadership roles as cadet instructors. Those who attain this status play a crucial role in training newer cadets, planning and delivering sessions to contribute to the overall development of the CCF community.

So far this term the CCF has been involved in the Remembrance Day parade in Gorleston and has undertaken a visit to RAF Marham.

The CCF spent a number of weeks practising their drill and marching to take place in the Gorleston parade (a lot of it in some very nasty weather).

The trip to RAF Marham was a great success with the cadets getting a guided tour of the base and its associated museum. They got to meet an RAF police dog and see a number of the aircraft being readied for flight. They then participated in a number of STEM based team building activities.

Additionally, this term cadets have been undertaking lessons on navigation and map reading skills to prepare them for field exercises in the summer.



On Friday 29th September, the Union of Venture Students (UVS) came together to raise awareness of the fantastic work Macmillan Cancer Support completes.

Hundreds of cakes, brownies, doughnuts and cookies were baked and donated causing a huge buzz at break time as students dived in. Banners, balloons and bunting decorated the area with the home made cupcakes proving the most popular! Each slice, cookie or cake was 50p with all donations going straight to the charity. The UVS raised over £100 for this amazing cause. The next charity event they have lined up is for Children In Need.

Mr Doggett commented that "It was tremendous to see the colourful array of cakes baked by students and the support the whole community has shown for such a worthy cause."



County Cross **COUNTRY**

Venture took a large number of runners to compete in the annual Norfolk Schools Cross Country event hosted at Wymondham College.



Runners in every category tried their best (even through injuries, loss of trainers and a lack of racing previously) in some truly horrendous conditions. The year 7s started proceedings with Emilija, Wes and Codey doing well. Toby shone as he managed a hugely commendable 10th place in his first Cross Country event for Venture. This sees him invited to the regional event in February in Lincolnshire.

The Intermediate teams consisted of years 8 and 9 runners with Jess finishing the highest in 19th. This is a great result for someone who is so busy with other sports too. The senior competition (in the worst weather of the day) was the longest at over 5km, although both Tegan in the girls' race and Harvey in the boys' kept to a steady consistent pace and finished well. The team dried out in McDonalds on the way home as a reward for their hard work.

Team: Wes, Codey, Toby, Ivey, Emilija, Jess, Ava, Reece, JJ, Aalyiah, Miabella, Harvey and Tegan



Year 10 **Netball**

An amazing effort from all players in the county finals qualifying round. The star players were Ruby (GD) and Emiliya (GA) who were the most influential players, moving into space, gaining lots of interceptions and contributing to lots of goals scored against Flegg High Ormiston Academy, Acle Academy and Lynn Grove Academy.

Year 10 **Football**



Annual Staff v Year 11 football match to welcome the year 11s into the senior year!

The match was watched by over a hundred spectators treated to moments of quality from the staff team and Miss Flatt in particular.

The staff had the better of the first half - although Mr Parker did pull off a fine save towards the end

of the half. This resulted in a quick counter and Mr Stevenson being on hand to riffle in from all of 3 yards out putting the staff 1-0 up!

Changes in the second saw Sam Hope lob the keeper from 25 yards to level the game at 1-1, and a goal keeping error allowed Brodie to pounce on a loose ball and tap in to secure the victory the students probably deserved. Connor led the team brilliantly and Keegan managed superbly from the sidelines.

The Year 10 Sports Leaders hosted their first primary school festival in December.

Homefield C of E Primary School, Herman Ormiston Academy and Hillside Primary school were all invited.

The festival was a fast-flowing version of netball where Sports Leader students managed the teams, refereed matches, kept the scores, collated the results, provided Christmas based entertainment and looked after the visiting teachers as well.

The students led by Megan and Daisy introduced the event to the primary school students. Venture's very own Vinny(Mascot) made an appearance at the end to and presented the winners with their medals and grand trophy. The students developed key skills such as teamwork, communication and problem solving as well as improving their confidence.



Sports Leader Event

The next festival will be in the new year and is on Sports Hall athletics for the students to organise.

Mr McNally commented that it was wonderful to see the Sports Leaders work in such a large group to organise the entire event with each pair having their own job. The event ran smoothly and the primary school students loved it. Megan said she was nervous but pleased with the outcome and is looking forward to the next one.



Venture vs Denes Year 7 boys



6-a-side football tournament -at Ormiston Denes Academy under floodlights on their 4G pitch.

Venture took some of the boys who have been attending the year 7 training regularly on a Thursday after school, some of which made their debut for the Academy.

Dawson and Bailey from year 7 managed the 2 teams, making formational and tactical decisions and subs when they felt necessary. Future Peps! Keegan, Phoenix, Harry A, Harry R, Harrie J, Mason, Shaye and both goalkeepers Alfie and Joey all managed to score!! The boys had a wonderful experience working together and enjoyed the atmosphere singing their hearts out on the minibus on the way home.



Ormiston Year 7 Cup: A Day of Football and Camaraderie

Norwich City Football Club's under-21 scholars recently organized the Ormiston Year 7 Cup at the Sport Park, UEA, bringing together young talents from various academies for a thrilling day of football.

Among the enthusiastic participants were two teams from Ormiston Venture Academy: Venture Vipers and Venture Vulcans. The event featured mini games that determined the team placements into three divisions, followed by intense 10-minute 7-a-side matches and exciting knockout rounds.

In the highly competitive Division 1, Venture Vulcans showcased their skills, reaching the semi-finals before being knocked out on penalties. Despite the heartbreak, the team displayed incredible sportsmanship and determination throughout the tournament. On the other hand, Venture Vipers triumphed in the conference division, clinching the trophy and bringing glory to their academy.

Reflecting on the event, Callum, a Year 7 student from Ormiston Venture Academy, shared his excitement, saying,

"We had a really good day and enjoyed playing against other OAT academies. I was pleased I (just about) scored my penalty in the shootout. It was cool being coached by a Norwich City player." Callum's enthusiasm echoed the sentiments of many young players who relished the opportunity to compete and learn from their peers.

Mr. McNally, Assistant Principal of Ormiston Venture Academy, praised the students for their dedication and teamwork, saying,

"The boys worked hard for each other and played in a wonderful spirit. It was excellent for them to spend time with scholars and role models to look up to."

His words highlighted the positive atmosphere and camaraderie that permeated the tournament, reinforcing the importance of teamwork, discipline, and respect on and off the field.

The Ormiston Year 7 Cup not only provided a platform for young football enthusiasts to showcase their talent but also served as an inspiring experience, allowing them to interact with professional players and coaches from Norwich City Football Club.

The event was a testament to the power of sports in fostering friendships, instilling values, and nurturing the next generation of athletes.





Year 8 Venture vs Charter Academy

Venture's 5-1 victory in the football fixture against Great Yarmouth Charter Academy.

A massive well done to the students, who played through the torrential rain and thunderstorms, each of them demonstrating exceptional resilience.

Year 8 Venture Elite squad:

Shay, Jack, Luca, Frankie, Will, Riley, Indi, JJ, Danny, Riley, along with Year 7 boys Dawson, Sully, Bailey and Luigi.

A well done to the four-year 7's selected who played a year up.



Venture Elite u15s Netball squad played in a tough fixture against a strong Langley side.

Despite a slow start, Venture picked up and improved massively as the game went on. Langley did come out on top; however, the Venture squad were grateful for the challenge after winning most of their games this season.

The resilience to not give up and improve as the game went on was recognised and praised by the Langley staff. Abi cooper scored an impressive 8 goals. Tiwa Owaya was awarded player of the match by the other team after a good defensive performance.

The squad was: Aaliyah, Tiwa, Taylor, Elisa, Lake, Ruby, Abi, Lucy

Year 10 Netball

It was a pleasure to see the Venture team play some fantastic Netball against some brilliant Netball teams from other schools in Norfolk.

The Venture team was; Emiliya (team captain), Emily, Isla, Sienna(Y11s), Tiwa, Ruby, Elisa, Abi and Taylor (Y10s). The first game was really close with many interceptions and some amazing defending from all players on the team, but Ruby and Tiwa in particular were exceptional.

This game finished 4-3 to Aylsham. The second game was against Norwich School and although there were some challenges in this game, the team overcame this and managed to win the second half of the game. This game finished 10-3 to Norwich School.

After working really hard in the previous game the team came away with a win in the final game, 2-1 to Venture versus Springwood. The team finished in 3rd place in their pool, a fantastic achievement. I am really excited to see the Year 10s progress and play in this tournament next year.

U16 Norfolk County Netball Finals at the UEA University of East Anglia



Year 8 Vs Broadlands High County Cup game



Venture Elite Year 8 squad: **Jack, Shay, Ollie, Luca, Frankie, Riley, Dawson, Sully, JJ, Danny, Indi, Declan**

Ormiston Venture Academy V's Broadland High Ormiston Academy in the Year 8 County Cup football fixture (away). Final score was 8-0 to Ormiston Venture!!

Hat trick scored by Jack, two goals from Shay, two goals from Will and a goal scored by Luca. Defence worked super hard to keep a clean sheet and special mentions to Dawson and Sully for playing a year up.

Classy performances all round. Ollie year 8 commented: **"It was a quality performance from all the boys, it was a brilliant game!"**

Mr Bentley, Teacher of PE said: **"Every member of the Venture Elite squad represented the academy in an outstanding manner with a classy performance. I am beyond proud of each of them and believe in this group of players."**

Year 8 Football quarter county cup game against St Clements:

A magnificent team performance saw the Venture year 8 boys' team progress into the semi finals of the Norfolk School's football County Cup.

A rugged tough display against an athletic and technically solid St Clements team saw the team go behind and then take a 3-1 lead into half time.

The boys defended resolutely in the second half and managed to grab 2 more goals. Even after conceding a couple of goals late on to make for a tense last 5 minutes, they were able to hang on to win 5-4.

The team battled exceptionally well with a special mention for JJ who had the hardest task of marking the opposition's best player. Shaye, Luca, Ollie and 2 for Jack secured the win and made the long journey back to Gorleston worthwhile.

Team: **Sully, Bailey, Dawson, Riley, Luigi, Indi, Ollie, Will, Shaye, JJ, Luca, Declan, Jack.**

